



# YEAR OF CLEAN WATER

## Water Education Weekly Drops

Week Two

### Basic Definitions

#### How Many of These WPD and Related Terms Do You Know?

AMD	Marsh
Aquifer	NPS
CAFO	NPDES
CSO	SSO
Dredge	TMDL
Effluent	UIC
Estuary	Watershed
Groundwater	Wetland

#### Answers:

- **AMD** - *Acid Mine Drainage*. Currently the main pollutant of surface water in Region 3, AMD is caused when water flows over or through sulfur-bearing materials forming solutions of net acidity.  
**For further information:** [http://www.epa.gov/region3/acidification/what\\_is\\_amd.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region3/acidification/what_is_amd.htm) or call **Bernie Sarnoski (215) 814-5756**
- **Aquifer**: Water-bearing portion of a geologic formation that transmits water
- **CAFO**: *Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation*. Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) are agricultural operations where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. AFOs that meet the regulatory definition of a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) have the potential of being regulated under the NPDES permitting program.  
**For further information:** [http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=7](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=7) or call: **Hank Zygmunt, DC Office: 202-564-6164; or Phil. 215-814-5750**
- **CSO**: *Combined Sewer Overflow*. Sewer systems that combine sanitary waste

and stormwater in instances of heavy rains, usually untreated; cities with older systems often have CSOs.

**For further information:** <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/cso/index.htm>  
**or call: Robert Chominski (215) 814-2162**

- **Dredge:** To remove sediments from a stream bed to deepen or widen the channel
- **Effluent:** Wastewater discharge
- **Estuary:** the area where the fresh water of a river meets and mixes with the salt water of the ocean
- **Groundwater:** the supply of fresh water that is found under the earth's surface in underground rock formations or soil
- **Marsh:** A wetland area, periodically inundated with standing or slow moving water, that has grassy or herbaceous vegetation and often little peat accumulation; the water may be salt, brackish, or fresh.
- **NPS:** *Nonpoint Source Pollution.* Diffused pollutants that are washed off the land (runoff) during the natural process of rainwater flowing across the land to rivers, lakes, oceans, and other water bodies.  
**For further information:** <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/nps/index.htm>  
**or call: Fred Suffian (215) 814-5753**
- **NPDES:** *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.* A national program in which pollution discharges, such as factories and sewage treatment plants, are given permits to discharge. These permits contain limits on the pollutants they are allowed to discharge.  
**For further information:** <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/npdes/index.htm>  
**or call: Robert Chominski, (215) 814-2162**
- **TMDL:** *Total Maximum Daily Limit.* The maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive daily without violating water quality standards  
**For further information:** <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/tmdl/index.htm>  
**or call: Thomas Henry, (215) 814-5752**
- **SSO:** *Sanitary Sewer Overflow.* Discharges of raw sewage from municipal

sanitary sewer.

**For further information:** <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/cso/index.htm>

**or call:** Robert Chominski, (215) 814-2162

- **UIC:** *Underground Injection Control*. The Program protects underground sources of drinking water from potential or current contaminants through subsurface discharges.  
**For further information:**  
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/drinkingwater/uic/index.htm>  
**or call:** Karen Johnson (215) 814-5445
- **Watershed:** the area of land that drains into a specific water body.
- **Wetland:** an area where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year.